

borders will advance Russia's interests by serving as sources of stability and economic opportunity.

We hope Russia's leaders will recognize that a future of cooperation and peace will benefit all parties. The cold war is over. The days of satellite states and spheres of influence are behind us. A contentious relationship with Russia is not in America's interest, and a contentious relationship with America is not in Russia's interest.

With its actions in recent days, Russia has damaged its credibility and its relations with the nations of the free world. Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century. Only Russia can decide whether it will now put itself back on the path of responsible nations or continue to pursue a policy that promises only confrontation and isolation. To begin to repair its relations with the United States and Europe and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must respect the freedom of its neighbors.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:13 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Continuation of United States Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

August 15, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Continuation of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2291-4), I hereby certify, with respect to Colombia, that (1) interdiction of aircraft reasonably suspected to be primarily engaged in illicit drug trafficking in that country's airspace is necessary be-

cause of the extraordinary threat posed by illicit drug trafficking to the national security of that country; and (2) that country has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with such interdiction, which shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force is directed against the aircraft.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register* and to notify the Congress of this determination.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 9

In the morning, at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel in Beijing, China, the President had an intelligence briefing. He was then briefed by Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James F. Jeffrey and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to the Chaoyang Park Olympic Beach Volleyball Venue, where he attended a U.S. men's and women's Olympic beach volleyball teams practice.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Fengtai Olympic Softball Field, where he attended a U.S. Olympic softball team practice.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Westin hotel. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where they attended a reception with chief executive officer sponsors of the 2008 U.S. summer Olympic team. They then returned to the Westin hotel.

In the evening, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia and President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia to discuss the situation in Georgia. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center—Basketball Gymnasium, where they attended the U.S. women's Olympic basketball game against the Czech Republic. Later, they returned to the Westin hotel.

August 10

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Beijing Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church. Later, they traveled to the National Aquatics Center, where they attended various men's and women's Olympic swimming events.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Zhongnanhai compound. They then participated in a social lunch with President Hu Jintao of China and his wife, Liu Yongqing. Later, they returned to the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council, to discuss the situation in Georgia.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where they had dinner. Later, they traveled to the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center—Basketball Gymnasium, where they attended the U.S. men's Olympic basketball game against China. They then returned to the Westin hotel.

August 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to the International Broadcasting Center. Later, he traveled to the National Aquatics Center, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

Later in the morning, the President met with members of the U.S. Olympic swim team. He and Mrs. Bush then attended various men's and women's Olympic swimming events. Later, they returned to the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center—Baseball Stadium, where

they attended a practice game between the U.S. and Chinese Olympic baseball teams. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, crossing the international dateline. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom, President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania, and President Lech Kaczynski of Poland to discuss the situation in Georgia.

Later in the afternoon, in the Situation Room, the President met with the National Security Council to discuss the situation in Georgia.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia to discuss the situation in Georgia.

The President declared a major disaster in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on July 24.

August 12

In the morning, the President was updated on the situation in Georgia by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley. He then had a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss the situation in Georgia.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences: Elizabeth Ann Bryan; Robert C. Granger; Caroline M. Hoxby; Douglas J. Besharov; Lynn S. Fuchs; Paul E. Peterson; John L. Winn; and Patrick J. Wolf.

The President announced his intention to appoint Elsa A. Murano as a member of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation: Jean N. Case (and upon

appointment to redesignate her Chair); Raymond G. Chambers; Bo Derek; Evert Cooper Epps; Janine L. Gauntt; Kasey K. Kahne; Mary Beth King; Mary J. Myers; Michelle Nunn; Kelly Perdew; Corinne B. Roberts; Michael W. Smith (and upon appointment to redesignate him Vice Chair); Jordin Sparks; Wendy M. Spencer; Roxanne Spillett; Hope Taft; Daniel C. Wuerffel; and Mark G. Yudof.

August 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council, to discuss the situation in Georgia. Then, in Room 231 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Secretary of War Suite.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Sameer Mishra.

August 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing, in which he was updated on the situation in Georgia. He then had separate telephone conversations with President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania and President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine to discuss the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters in Langley, VA, where he participated in separate briefings on the war on terror and the situation in Georgia.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Central Intelligence Agency employees. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in New Mexico and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on July 26 and continuing.

August 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President Toomas Ilves of

Estonia to discuss the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as U.S. Commissioners on the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean: Rick Gaffney; William H. Gibbons-Fly; Paul M. Krampe; Jane C. Luxton; and Peter Young.

The President announced his intention to designate Santanu "Sandy" K. Baruah as Acting Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, a tornado, and flooding on July 18.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino, National Security Council Senior Director for East Asian Affairs Dennis C. Wilder, and Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James F. Jeffrey

Released August 11

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Hampshire